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Italeri I6491

Italeri Sd.Kfz.167 Sturmgeschutz STuG IV 1:35 Scale Model Kit Instruction Manual

Model Number: I6491

1. Introduction

This manual provides detailed instructions for the assembly, painting, and care of your Italeri Sd.Kfz.167 Sturmgeschutz STuG IV 1:35 scale model kit. The Sturmgeschutz (StuG) was a German assault gun, primarily designed for infantry support, and later adapted for anti-tank roles. The StuG IV, specifically, combined the StuG III casemate with a Panzer IV chassis, offering a more robust platform. This kit allows you to recreate a historically accurate representation of this significant vehicle.

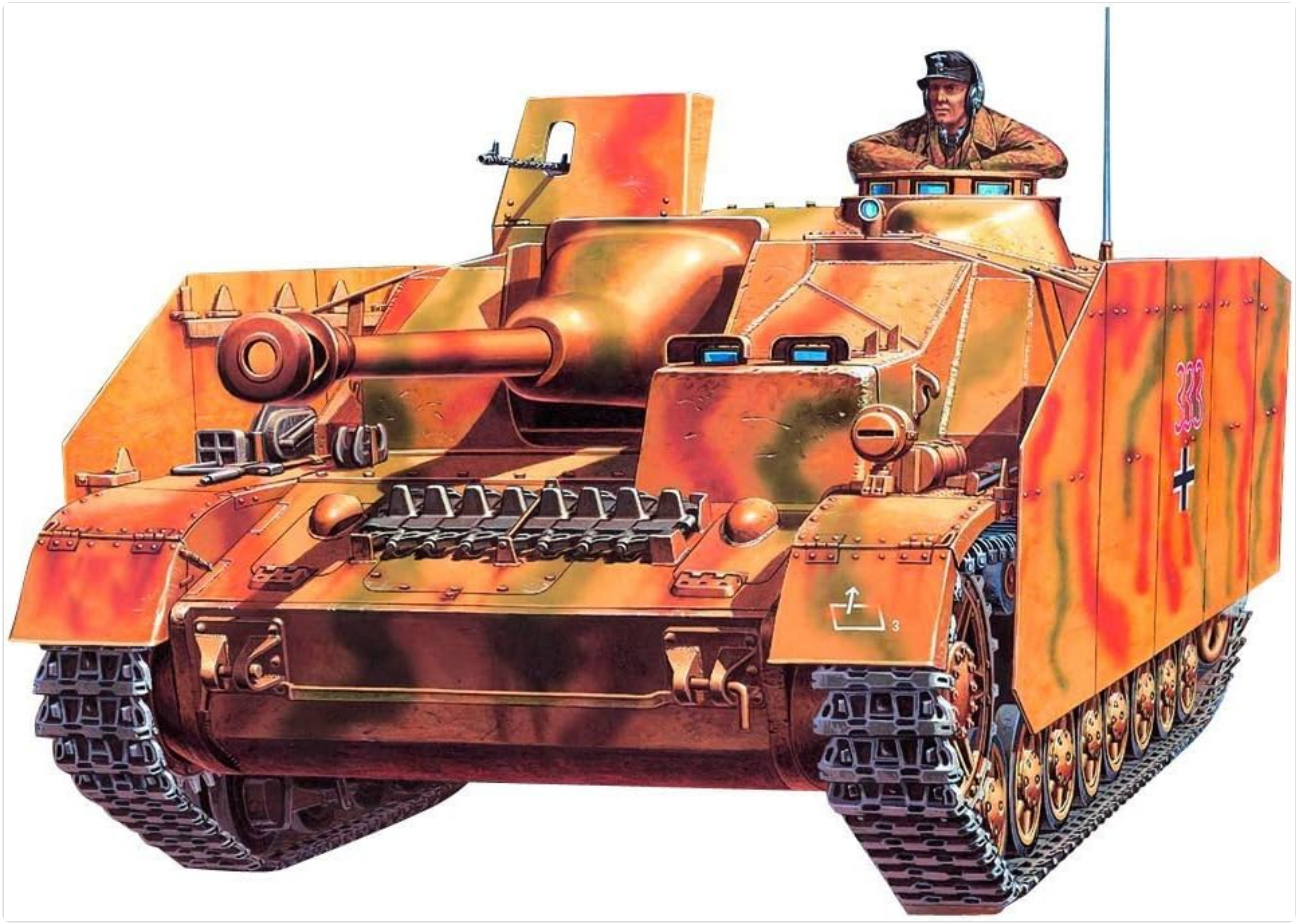


Figure 1: Depiction of the completed Italeri Sd.Kfz.167 Sturmgeschutz STuG IV model kit, showcasing its detailed design and

camouflage scheme. This image represents the final appearance of the model after successful assembly and painting.

2. Safety Information

Please read and understand all safety warnings before beginning assembly. This kit contains small parts and requires the use of sharp tools and chemical adhesives/paints. Adult supervision is recommended for users under 14 years of age.

- **Small Parts:** Choking hazard. Keep out of reach of small children.
- **Sharp Tools:** Use hobby knives, clippers, and files with extreme care. Always cut away from your body.
- **Adhesives and Paints:** Use in a well-ventilated area. Avoid prolonged skin contact and inhalation of fumes. Refer to the specific safety instructions provided with your chosen glues and paints.
- **Eye Protection:** Consider wearing safety glasses when cutting or sanding parts.

3. Kit Contents and Required Tools

3.1 Kit Contents

Your Italeri Sd.Kfz.167 Sturmgeschutz STuG IV model kit typically includes:

- Plastic sprues with molded parts
- Decal sheet
- Instruction booklet
- Clear parts (if applicable, for periscopes/vision blocks)

Inspect all parts upon opening the box to ensure no components are missing or damaged. Contact Italeri customer support if any parts are missing.

3.2 Tools and Materials Required (Not Included)

To successfully assemble and finish your model, you will need the following:

- **Hobby Knife:** For cutting parts from sprues and trimming excess plastic.
- **Plastic Cement:** Specifically designed for polystyrene plastic models.
- **Side Cutters/Nippers:** For cleanly removing parts from sprues.
- **Sandpaper/Files:** Fine-grit for smoothing cut marks and seams.
- **Tweezers:** For handling small parts and applying decals.
- **Paints:** Acrylic or enamel model paints for base coats, camouflage, and detail painting. Refer to the kit's painting guide for recommended colors.
- **Paint Brushes:** Various sizes for different painting tasks.
- **Masking Tape:** For sharp paint lines during camouflage application.
- **Decal Setting Solution:** To help decals conform to surfaces and reduce silvering.

4. Assembly Instructions (Setup)

Follow the numbered steps in the kit's instruction booklet carefully. The following are general guidelines for model assembly:

1. **Preparation:** Before cutting any parts, familiarize yourself with the instruction booklet and the layout of the sprues. Identify all parts for each step.

2. **Part Removal:** Carefully cut parts from the sprues using side cutters or a hobby knife. Avoid pulling or twisting, which can damage parts.
3. **Cleaning Parts:** Trim any excess plastic (flash) from the parts using a hobby knife or fine sandpaper. Smooth the attachment points where parts were cut from the sprue.
4. **Test Fitting:** Always test fit parts together before applying cement. This ensures a good fit and helps identify any potential issues.
5. **Cementing:** Apply a small amount of plastic cement to one of the mating surfaces. Hold the parts firmly together until the cement sets. Avoid using too much cement, as it can melt the plastic or leave unsightly marks.
6. **Sub-Assemblies:** Build the model in logical sub-assemblies (e.g., hull, turret/casemate, tracks, wheels) as indicated in the instructions. This often makes painting easier.
7. **Tracks:** The kit may include individual link tracks or rubber band style tracks. Follow the specific instructions for your kit's track type. Individual link tracks require careful assembly and often cement.

5. Painting and Decal Application (Finishing)

Painting and applying decals bring your model to life. Refer to the kit's painting guide for specific color schemes and decal placement.

1. **Cleaning:** Ensure the assembled model is clean and free of dust, grease, or fingerprints before painting. A light wash with mild soap and water, followed by thorough drying, is recommended.
2. **Priming (Optional but Recommended):** Apply a thin, even coat of primer. Primer helps paint adhere better and provides a uniform base color.
3. **Base Coat:** Apply the primary color(s) for your chosen camouflage scheme. Multiple thin coats are better than one thick coat.
4. **Camouflage:** If applying a camouflage pattern, use masking tape or a freehand airbrush technique to create distinct color areas.
5. **Detail Painting:** Paint smaller details such as tools, machine guns, periscopes, and tracks.
6. **Gloss Coat:** Apply a clear gloss coat over the areas where decals will be placed. This provides a smooth surface for decals and helps prevent "silvering" (air trapped under the decal).
7. **Decal Application:**
    - Cut out each decal close to its edge.
    - Dip the decal in lukewarm water for a few seconds until it slides freely on its backing paper.
    - Slide the decal onto the model in the desired position using tweezers or a brush.
    - Gently blot away excess water with a soft cloth or cotton swab.
    - Apply decal setting solution to help the decal conform to surface details and eliminate air bubbles.
8. **Flat/Matte Coat:** Once decals are dry, apply a clear flat or matte coat over the entire model to unify the finish and protect the paint and decals.
9. **Weathering (Optional):** Techniques like washes, dry-brushing, and pigments can be used to simulate dirt, rust, and wear for a more realistic appearance.



Figure 2: The Italeri Sd.Kfz.167 Sturmgeschutz STuG IV model kit displayed in a simulated battlefield environment, demonstrating the potential for realistic finishing and diorama integration. This image highlights the detailed camouflage and weathering effects that can be achieved.

6. Display and Care (Maintenance)

Proper display and care will preserve your finished model for years to come.

- **Display Location:** Choose a stable, level surface away from direct sunlight, extreme temperatures, and high humidity. Direct sunlight can fade paints and decals over time.
- **Dust Protection:** Consider displaying your model in a dust-proof display case to minimize cleaning.
- **Cleaning:** Gently dust your model with a soft, dry brush or a can of compressed air. Avoid using water or chemical cleaners, as these can damage paint and decals.
- **Handling:** Handle the model by its sturdy base or main hull whenever possible, avoiding delicate parts like antennas or machine guns.

7. Troubleshooting Common Issues

Here are solutions to some common problems encountered during model kit assembly:

- **Parts Not Fitting:**

  Ensure all sprue gates and flash are completely removed. Lightly sand mating surfaces if necessary. Check the instruction steps to ensure parts are oriented correctly.

- **Visible Glue Marks:**

  Use cement sparingly. If marks occur, allow the cement to fully cure, then carefully sand and re-paint the affected area. Consider using a non-toxic, clear-drying PVA glue for clear parts to avoid fogging.

- **Paint Not Adhering/Uneven:**

  Ensure the model surface is clean and free of oils. Apply primer before painting. Apply multiple thin coats of paint instead of one thick coat. Allow each coat to dry thoroughly.

- **Decal Silvering:**

  Apply decals over a gloss surface. Use decal setting solutions to help decals conform to surface details and eliminate trapped air. Puncture tiny holes in stubborn bubbles with a sharp needle and reapply setting solution.

- **Missing Parts:**

  Carefully check the box and packaging. If a part is genuinely missing, contact Italeri customer support with

the kit number and part number.

8. Specifications

Feature	Detail
Brand	Italeri
Model Number	I6491
Scale	1:35
Product Dimensions	14.57 x 9.84 x 2.36 inches (packaging)
Item Weight	1.12 pounds (packaging)
Recommended Age	14 years and up
Type	Plastic Model Kit (Unbuilt / Unpainted)

9. Warranty and Support

As a model kit, this product is typically covered by a warranty against manufacturing defects or missing parts at the time of purchase. It is not covered for issues arising from assembly errors, painting mistakes, or normal wear and tear after completion.
For assistance with missing or defective components, please contact Italeri customer support directly. Have your kit's model number (I6491) and the specific part number(s) ready when you contact them.
Manufacturer: Italeri

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